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## **Sen. Brown, colleagues introduce legislation to encourage use of renewable fuels**

**LANSING** – Legislation designed to promote and make renewable fuels widely available in Michigan has been introduced in the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives, said state Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township.

“Promoting greater use of renewable fuels is vital to reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and becoming more environmentally responsible,” said Brown, chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. “This package is good for the economy, our farmers and the environment.”

The goal of the bipartisan, bicameral, six-bill package is to promote and encourage use of E85, a fuel blend that is 85 percent ethanol, and biodiesel, which is a diesel fuel containing at least 5 percent biodiesel.

The bills are also designed to help spur growth in Michigan’s agriculture industry, which provides many of the ingredients necessary to produce ethanol and biodiesel.

Although GM and Ford are heavily investing in the production of E85 vehicles, there are only four pumps currently dispensing the fuel in Michigan, while Minnesota has 198 pumps and Illinois has 104 pumps statewide.

“The state of Michigan should be a leader when it comes to the creation and use of renewable fuels,” Brown said. “We need to lay the groundwork for a time when ethanol and biodiesel pumps sit alongside gasoline pumps at every station.”

Senate Bill 1079, sponsored by Brown, would set strict quality-control standards for biodiesel and hydrogen fuels, and requires diesel fuel testing in Michigan.

“When I first started exploring the renewable fuel needs of our state, I was surprised to learn that Michigan has no quality standard for biodiesel,” Brown said. “Consumers must feel confident that this is a dependable alternative to traditional energy sources.”

Minnesota recently encountered a myriad of problems introducing biodiesel into the state’s diesel pool due to a lack of quality testing.

SB 1079 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy.